

ABOUT VISUAL ARTISTS

Amy Dean, "Korea – 1953"

Through May at Jens Gallery and Design in Billings
Artist's website: www.amydeanwatercolors.com

Amy Dean showcases a collection of figurative watercolors based on photographs taken by her father that chronicle his personal experiences while in Korea in the early 1950s.

Dean's work is powerful in terms of subject matter and method. Using detailed sketches, a precise "pouring" technique and a limited palette, she achieves seamless color transitions and strong contrasts between light and shadow. The exhibit offers poignant, historically relevant images of the Korean people and their culture.

Dean, a native of south Florida who now lives in Billings, has attained signature membership in the National and Florida Watercolor Societies. Her work has appeared in the National Watercolor Society's 2006 Exhibition and was selected for that year's traveling exhibition.

Her painting "Butterfly Girl, Korea 1953" appeared in *Splash 13, Alternative Approaches: The Best of Watercolor*, a North Light Book that explores "the paths less traveled ... real solutions and alternative approaches from 100 of today's masters of the medium." The same painting was included in the *Watercolor Artist Magazine's* third annual Watermedia Showcase.

Her powerful use of light and perspective, especially as it relates to the human figure, are conveyed with formidable technique and personal style, and bring an artist's insight into the world of her subjects.

Dean maintains a studio/gallery in Billings, where she draws inspiration "from friends and environs."



"A Girl and Her Dog" by Amy Dean

George McCauley: "Tomodachi Too" and "Three Potters"

"Tomadachi Too": June 5-26 at the Red Lodge Clay Center in Red Lodge, with a reception June 5; and "Three Potters," June 12-Aug. 16 at the Holter Museum of Art in Helena, with a reception June 12

Artist's website: www.georgemccauley.com



"Kabin Vase" by George McCauley

and the ways in which the ties of friendship forged among potters are strong, regardless of locale.

McCauley, a Greek/American potter, has had 23 solo shows and his work has been included in 186 exhibitions. He has taught and conducted workshops internationally, and made two films, "Archie C. Bray Jr.: Life at the Brickyard" and "Ron Meyers and the Usual Suspects."

The recipient of three National Endowment for the Arts grants and the prestigious Roy Acuff Chair of Excellence for the Arts at Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, TN, his pottery and sculpture are included in international collections in 11 countries, and myriad books and periodicals.

In 2007 he was invited as a guest of the Chinese government to lecture and exhibit in conjunction with the International Teapot Exhibition in Zhugiagiao; in 2009 he was chosen as one of nine ceramic artists from around the world to participate in the Kohila Wood Fire Symposium in Estonia; and in 2012 he traveled to Japan to complete work for exhibitions of his wood-fired ceramics and conduct workshops.

McCauley maintains a studio at his home in Helena, where he makes colorful earthenware pots and narrative sculpture. Along the way he has worked as a chef in a Greek restaurant, horse trainer, full-time cowboy, concrete inspector, aluminum-siding salesman, western catalog model, lifeguard and carpenter.

Louis Habeck, Visual Vault Artist-in-Residence Through July 25 at the Yellowstone Art Museum, Billings

Artist's website: habeck.daportfolio.com

Louis Habeck is an up-and-coming artist, born and raised in Billings. He received his bachelor of fine arts from The University of Montana in 2011. Although his emphasis was in photography, his work spans an array of media, including sculpture and drawing. He describes himself as a carpenter and photographer by day, and a sculptor and painter by night.

During his tenure as the YAM's artist-in-residence, Habeck plans

to focus on his sculptural work, which depicts peculiar, melancholy creatures, and investigates the often dark, transitional times in their lives.

He says of his "Imaginarium": "... These pathetic wonders of nature have all evolved unimaginably useless and disadvantageous physical attributes making even the easiest of tasks impossible. I don't think of myself as creating; rather, I consider myself to be merely entangled with these creatures' deaths – a taxidermist of dreams."

In early 2015, Habeck's sculpture, "Gilligan Ponders Solitude," was featured in the YAM's 47th Annual Art Auction. Work from his "Business Animal" print series is currently on display through the Downtown Billings Public Art Campaign.

In addition, he has been featured this past year in local publications *Magic City Magazine* and *Noise and Color*. The artist has given multiple sculpture lectures and demonstrations for classes at Northwest College in Powell, WY; Montana State University Billings; and the MAEA Conference (Montana Art Education Association).

During his residency, the artist will maintain varied open studio hours, during which the public can watch him work, interact with him, and see his current work displayed in the studio.

Linda Stoudt, "AfterNow"

June 5-July 31 The Frame Shop and Gallery, Hamilton

In 2012, Stevensville artist Linda Stoudt lost her husband of 42 years. A response to the profound grief was an exhibition of 35 works on paper titled "Shed," displayed in 2014 at the Frame Shop and



"Breathe" by Linda Stoudt

Gallery in Hamilton and Turman Larison Contemporary in Helena. Her new body of work, "AfterNow," is an ongoing series that depicts barriers dissolved by new love after loss. She considers her work a visual journal of mundane or extraordinary experiences – a chronicle of "transition, passage through time and space, the permanence of impermanence."

Stoudt, who says she's painted all her life, received a BFA in 1972 from the University of the Arts, Philadelphia, PA, and has pursued undergraduate work and traveled extensively. For the past 23 years, she has lived and worked in Stevensville. Her work is included in various museum collections, including the Missoula Art Museum, Philadelphia Museum of Art and the Newark Museum.

Most recently, three works on paper from the "Shed" series were included in the 2015 "Paper in Particular" exhibition at Columbia College, Columbia, MO. In addition to working on paper, the artist plies paint to different surfaces, including cardboard and sandpaper.

An earlier series, "Works on Paper," displayed at the Frame Shop in 2009, "hinted at human anatomy and its lurking fragility," according to a story in the *Missoula Independent* – the artist's response to her father's 10-year battle with Alzheimer's.

Since her father's death and now her husband's, she's acutely aware of the ephemeral nature of life. "There are simple things, very mundane things you have to do such as washing vegetables as an everyday task," she told the *Independent*. "But then seeing a leaf with the sunlight piercing through it, that kind of translucence at the kitchen sink, you want to capture that moment, remember it."

Dana Zier

May and June at Zier Gallery, Bridger

Artist's website: www.danazier.com

Dana Zier has always had the inspiration to create. She grew up in south-central Montana and northern Wyoming. The freedom of wide-open spaces and the horses that roamed there have always influenced her painting, but don't appear to narrow her subject range. In addition to painting horses, Zier is proficient at landscapes, portraits, and still-lives.

Her favorite medium is oil paint, although she also enjoys painting large murals. Her most recent adorns the side of the Limbertree Yoga Studio on 29th Street in Billings.

Zier's formal education includes a bachelor's degree from Montana State University, Billings, and master's from Purdue University in Lafayette, IN. She has been a professional artist for 18 years, along with teaching art subjects at MSU Billings, Purdue and Valparaiso universities, and Saint Joseph's College in Indiana.

She recently moved back to Montana and, with her husband, Chris Konz, opened Zier Gallery in Bridger. She continues to paint Montana "inside and out," and teaches art at Billings Christian School.

Her work is on display in May as a part of a group show, and is included in "Out in Plain Air," in June. That exhibit features works by well-known Montana artists that were painted "en plein aire," or out in the open. She'll also lead plein-air Art Excursions each Friday in June.



"Gilligan Ponders Solitude" by Louis Habeck



19

Send your submissions for About Visual Arts

With About Visual Arts, *State of the Arts* continues to profile living Montana artists (no students, please), whose work is the focus of a current exhibit (on display during some portion of the two months covered by the current issue of *State of the Arts*).

Submissions must include:

- A digital image of the artist's work, with title of the piece (at least 200 dpi);
- A brief bio and description of the artist's work;
- Dates and title of exhibit; and
- The gallery or museum name, town and phone number.

MAC will select submissions that reflect a cross-section of gender, geography, styles and ethnicity, and are from a mix of public and private galleries and museums.

Deadline for submissions for the July/August issue is Monday, June 1. Send submissions to write-us@livelytimes.com with About Visual Arts in the subject line.



"White Teapot and Geraniums" by Dana Zier

About Visual Artists
compiled by Kristi Niemeyer